GRAPPENHALL AND THELWALL PARISH COUNCIL
SAFEGUARDING POLICY

(Adopted at Council Meeting 17th June 2021)

Executive Summary

Grappenhall and Thelwall Parish Council has a duty to safeguard children, young people, and vulnerable adults. This Policy outlines good practice for the aforementioned groups when using Parish Council facilities. The Policy will be reviewed annually by the Clerk.

Definitions

Children and young people (anyone under the age of 18).

Vulnerable Adult (anyone over the age or 18 who is unable to care for themselves, unable to protect themselves from significant harm or exploitation as a result of age, frailty, disability, illness, or lifestyle and/or needs community care services).

Policy Objectives

- to ensure where possible all facilities and activities offered by the Parish council are designed and maintained to limit risk
- to promote the general welfare, health, and development of children by being aware of child protection issues and to be able to respond where appropriate as a local government organisation
- whilst the Parish Council does not directly provide a care or supervision service to children and vulnerable adults, it expects all children and vulnerable adults using its facilities to do so with the consent and necessary supervision of a parent, carer, or other responsible adult
- the Parish Council will endeavour to ensure that any organisation or group providing activities for children and vulnerable adults within its facilities have their own safeguarding policies, as well as appropriate training and DBS check for staff and volunteers

Promoting a Safe Environment

- provide safe facilities and undertake regular safety check and risk assessments
- ensure that employees, Councillors, and volunteers are aware of safeguarding expectations and receive appropriate training
- provide a point of contact for reporting any concerns and for further information (Parish Clerk or Assistant Clerk)

Recognise Signs of Abuse

With regard to children look for changes in the following:

- appearance, such as frequent unexplained injuries, consistently poor hygiene, matted hair, unexplained gifts, parents regularly contacting children when drunk/under the influence of drugs
- behaviour, such as demanding or aggressive behaviour, frequent lateness, avoiding family members, misusing drugs, or alcohol, being constantly tired
- communication – such as sexual or aggressive language, self-harming, becoming secretive and reluctant to share information or being overly obedient

With regard to adults look for:

- **Physical abuse –** such as hitting, slapping, misuse of medication or restraint
- **Domestic abuse** – psychological, physical, sexual, financial, and emotional abuse or 'honour-based violence'
- **Sexual abuse** – such as rape, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, or innuendo
- **Psychological abuse -** intimidation, bullying, shouting swearing, taunting, threatening, or humiliating someone
- **Financial or material abuse –** theft, fraud, forcing someone to do something in relation to their financial arrangements (for example wills, property, financial transactions) misusing or taking their money, possessions, or benefits
- **Modern slavery –** slavery (including domestic slavery), human trafficking and forced labour
- **Discriminatory abuse –** such as harassment, slurs, or similar treatment
- **Organisational abuse –** organisational neglect. This could be a culture of bullying, poor organisation, denying people choice and lack of dignity and respect
- **Neglect and acts of omission –** ignoring medical, emotional, or physical care needs. Failing to provide access to appropriate health care and support of educational services, and withholding necessities such as medication adequate food, drink, and heating
- **Self-neglect** – this covers a wide range of behaviours. Neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health, or surrounds

Reporting Concerns

Councillors, staff, and volunteers should report any concerns as soon as possible to the Parish Council Office who will advise on the appropriate contact or should directly contact either Warrington Borough Council Children's Safeguarding/Social Work Team on 01925 443322 or 01925 44410 (out of hours) or the Police if you believe a crime has been committed (101), or there is immediate risk of harm (999).

Allegations against Staff and Volunteers

Should an allegation be made, the matter will be reported to the relevant organisation (see above) and the Parish council will follow its own disciplinary procedures as appropriate, including suspension from work during any investigations deemed necessary.